

### *Roundtable, Site Visit Focus on Growing Local Transportation Infrastructure*

Hobbs, NM – On Wednesday, Harry Teague hosted US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood in Las Cruces for events focusing on transportation infrastructure projects and priorities in Las Cruces. The day consisted of a transportation roundtable with federal, state, and local officials, as well as a visit to the I-10 expansion project made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“I am committed to building a robust transportation infrastructure to make Dona Ana County a hub for industry and commerce, which is why I fought to be on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and brought local leaders together for the Transportation Summit here in Las Cruces. Bottom line, fostering transportation infrastructure growth is about promoting economic development, creating jobs, and using comprehensive transportation planning as a tool to create livable communities,” said Harry Teague. “We’ve seen the benefits that transportation projects funded by the Recovery Act can bring to our area, and we need to continue our efforts to put New Mexicans back to work building our infrastructure. I want to thank Secretary LaHood for coming to Las Cruces and his work to strengthen transportation resources.”

The day began with a roundtable discussion which focused on Las Cruces transportation projects, new transit options between El Paso and Las Cruces, the Interchange between I-10 and I-25, the transportation investment taking place in Santa Teresa, and other transportation projects within the area. NMDOT Secretary Gary Girón, Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagashima and NMSU President Barbara Couture, as well as local representatives and representatives from USDOT, NMDOT, Spaceport America, and the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce were also in attendance.

“Thanks to the Recovery Act, projects like the I-10 expansion are putting Americans back to work in New Mexico and across the country,” said Secretary LaHood. “These investments in our transportation infrastructure are creating jobs today, while building the foundation for our economic success in the future.”

Secretary LaHood, a former Republican Congressman from Illinois, and Harry Teague, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, then visited the site of the I-10 Expansion project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and met with representatives from Mountain States Construction Inc., which employs over 100 people on the initiative. The project includes the reconstruction of existing lanes on Interstate 10 and expansion from a four-lane to a six-lane highway to accommodate high commuter and commercial traffic from El Paso.



Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Robert LaHood, and U.S. Representative Martin Heinrich, accompanied by local officials, including Mayor Teague, on a tour of the Las Cruces area to discuss the impact of the Recovery Act on the region.